While waiting for own dredgers, tenders were floated for chartering of dredgers in National Waterway No. 2. But this did not materialize on account of no response from private sector due to reasons well-known. Alternate method of river conservancy namely bandalling was resorted to, to keep the navigational route operational. The route from Dhubri to Negmati for a distance of 630 Kms. was maintained with 2-meter depth by this method.

Publicity of Government views

*47. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREEDY:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government in regard to publicity of their views through audio-visual media;

(b) whether it is a fact that owing to lack of sponsorship, D.D. News Channel, would be shut down; and

(c) if so, how the views of Government would be publicised to fulfil social responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):(a) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the nodal Ministry of the Government for dissemination of information of Government's policies and programmes and for spreading awareness through various means of communications, including audio-visual media. This role is performed through its various Media Units, as well as by Prasar Bharati, which is an autonomous statutory Corporation, whose mandate is to conduct public broadcasting service to inform, educate and entertain the public.

(b) and (c) As a part of its restructuring exercise, Prasar Bharati has closed down DD News and Current Affairs Channel due to its high cost and low visibility. DD-National Channel, which has an extensive reach, now carries more programmes on news and current affairs to fulfil the mandate of public service broadcasting more effectively.

Implementation of SC Order relating to illegal sex determination tests

48. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the Supreme Court's orders to confiscate ultrasound machines used to carry out sex determination tests not even a single machine has been impounded in the Capital;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure implementation of orders of the Supreme Court in letter and spirit; and

(d) the details of hospitals/clinics in the Capital having such machines illegally?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) In an Order dated 29th January, 2002, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has directed the State Governments/U.Ts. to seal and seize the ultrasound machines/scanners used by such organizations as have not got themselves registerd under the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulations and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. The ultrasound machine used by the Dham Diagnostic Centre, Karol Bagh, Delhi was seized on 4th February, 2002.

A copy of the Order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court has been forwarded to all the States/ U.Ts. requesting them to take immediate action to comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The National Inspection and Monitoring Committee constituted by Government to keep watch on the implementation of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 and orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, visited Faridabad on 4.2.2002. The Haryana State Appropriate Authority as well as the District Appropriate Authority of Faridabad were advised by the Committee to seize and seal the ultrasound machines of organizations who are using the same without getting themselves registered. Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court, Government is considering amendment of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 and Rules to ensure that machines which are being used by unregistered clinics are sealed and seized, and that machines are not even sold to unregistered clinics.

Unauthorised constructions in Government colonies

*49. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unauthorised constructions by the allottees in various Government colonies like R.K. Puram, Laxmibai Nagar, Sarojini Nagar, Sector-4 of DIZ area of Delhi;